

TSU Weekly Wrap Up – February 28, 2020

By Pete McKay-TSU 1st VP

Job Action – 🎵 And the beat goes on... 🎵 Yes, another call to hit the bricks. After signs of good faith by OECTA by calling off the rotating strikes of this week, the government pulled out all kinds of crap and truly upset President Liz Stuart. So, Thursday March 5, OECTA is closing down Catholic Boards across the province. And we are ready!

To compound the situation, the OLRB hearing this week uncovered the results of the biggest, greatest, shiniest consultation of all time. You know, the one the government was claiming to rely on to implement what parents wanted for education, it said. Well, who'd have thunk it, the results showed exactly the opposite! Their whole approach to education was laid out bare for the province to see what lies they have been telling and that their approach has been wholly ideological.

This week's Lecce's Lies: nice of Lecce to move off Reg 274, but he committed two significant offenses this week. First he went along with an incendiary article from the Sun, and tweeted out about Catholic Teachers supporting a sign that Catholic Teachers would never go near. Deliberate provocation and outright lies as he knew about the sign from other anti-government rallies. And then he came out and told the media and the legislature that talks broke down on Monday because OECTA came after benefits increases. As nice as those would be, that's not the issue that caused the talks to break down.

LTD- The Trustees met on Tuesday and followed up with presentations arranged through OTIP and then the AGM. One significant fact that came out of it was that, teachers hang on almost twice as long as other workers before finally taking time off for mental health issues. In the last few years, comparisons have been made between how we view mental illness versus physical illness. And we have to also respond to both in a similar fashion. If you broke your leg, you would go get it fixed, not walk around on it. Consider what you can do to look after yourself so that things aren't made worse. We have a benefit plan that provides for various types of assistance and counselling. And there is the Employee Family Assistance Plan, which can be found on the Employee Services page of the Board website. Please look after yourself.

OTs – A number of different meetings were held with the Board this week. The regular Article 9 Meeting took place to discuss all things OT. Some good news was celebrated as the Board has taken steps forward to ensure that OTs have some level of protection when they come to a school. Information regarding various potential problems should be shared with them by admin. This has been happening at some schools, now everyone needs to be on board with looking after our OT colleagues. A concern that has been raised by Admin and OTs is that sometimes there is insufficient information available to them for continuation of programming in classes. It is important that OTs be left a clear plan, even if it is just the pages and questions in a particular book. They should not be expected to log on somewhere to find something, as it might not be possible for various reasons, nor to ask students for the information. As lovely as our students might be, they are not always wholly reliable in this role, nor does it put the OT in a good place in relation to them.

Data Review – The TSU members of the SSSAC did an analysis of the data collected from all the schools in November. While most of the information was in line with the CA, a significant issue that jumped out at us was with regard to the classes over the cap. It has been said before but obviously needs repeating: V-coded classes are not allowed to be over the cap by any number of students. The cap is the average of the maximum for the courses included in them, rounded down. Please take a look at your own classes and see whether you have been given more students than you are supposed to have. Grievances will be forthcoming on this.

And of course the other usual things.... La de da de de.

For those wondering about the opening (and closing) line:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bS3O5zq290k>